ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF SOOTHILL UPPER,

For the Year 1904.

To the Sanitary Committee of the Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my TENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation, and Progress of the District.

The area of the District is 1,897 acres, and the population, at the last Census, was 6,104, but now, estimated on the basis of the number of inhabited houses in the middle of the year, at 6,647.

Number of inhabited houses.			Population.		
1891	1901	1904	1891	1901	1904
1233	1329	1516	5848	6104	6647

Increase since last Census in the number of inhabited houses	187
Increase in the population	543
Average to each house	4·385

The births for the year amounted to 167, 97 males and 70 females, giving a birth rate of 25·1. This shows a very low birth-rate against England and Wales, 27·9, or even against itself some years ago. If we read backwards for 10 years the figures are :—25·1, 25·98, 26·2, 26·0, 25·58, 24·65, 24·8, 28·8, 32·2, and 30·7 in 1895. Whether this state of things is due to pernicious literature that was circulated in this part of the country some years ago, or whether it is due merely to a swing of the pendulum I am unable to say. I have no reliable figures previous to 1895. Two of the births were illegitimate.

The deaths for the year amounted to 113 ; but to these are to be added 8 belonging to this district that took place in Institutions, viz. : Workhouse 3, Wakefield Asylum 1, Dewsbury Small-pox Hospital 3, and Dewsbury Infirmary 1 ; so that the corrected deaths are 121, 65 males and 56 females, giving a death-rate of 18·2 per 1,000. This is a high death-rate for this district, and we shall have to go back 9 or 10 years to find its equal. Reading backwards for 10 years the figures are :—18·2, 14·8, 13·8, 16·0, 15·7, 12·48, 17·8, 17·1, 18·3, and 20·5 in 1895. I have no reliable figures previous to 1895. 1904 was an exceptional year, in that 4 were carried off by an epidemic of smallpox ; also, that 7 children were prematurely born and only survived their birth from a few hours to 3 months.

AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	31
1 year and under 5 years	13
5 ,, ,, 15 ,, ...	9
15 ,, ,, 25 ,, ...	7
25 ,, ,, 65 ,, ...	36
65 ,, upwards	25
	121

The deaths in the first five years determine the death-rate. We have 44 in those years, against 32 last year ; moreover, 31 of these died within their first year ; so that more than a fourth of the deaths took place in the first year, which is equal to 185 per 1000 of the children born. Seven of these deaths were due to premature birth, and four were certified to have died of debility from birth. I have made three enquiries regarding these 11 deaths :—(1) Were they suckled? Many of them died without being able to suck, therefore the information is not of much value. (2) Do the mothers go out to work? All stay at home except one. (3) Was this the first-born? They varied from the 2nd to the 10th, so that they were not in the hands of novices.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR.

Small Pox	2
Measles	1
Diarrhœa	7
Premature Birth	7
Debility from birth	4
Bronchitis	5
Eczema	1
Convulsions	4
	31

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Small Pox	4
Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	5
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	4
Enteric...	1
Epidemic Influenza	1
Diarrhœa	7
Enteritis	1
Phthisis	12
Other Tubercular Diseases	4
Cancer	3
Bronchitis	14
Pneumonia	4
Alcoholism	1
Premature Birth	7
Parturition	1
Heart Diseases	9
Debility from Birth	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	4
Acute Rheumatism	4
Convulsions	5
Kidney Disease	4
Inquests	8
Eczema	1
All other causes	10
	121

The deaths from Zymotic diseases are included under Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Enteric and Diarrhœa, and are equal to a rate of 3·6 against 1·37, ·78 and 2·9 in the three preceding years. Phthisis death-rate 1·8 against 1·07, 1·89 and 1·1 in the three preceding years. Respiratory diseases 2·7 against 2·75, 2·5 and 3·4 in the three preceding years.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1904.

1904.	England and Wales.	76 great towns.	103 other great towns.	England and Wales less the 179 large towns.	Soothill Upper.
Birth rate ...	27·9	29.1	27·5	26·8	25·1
Death rate ...	16·2	17·2	15·6	15·3	18·2
Zymotic death rate ...	1·94	2·49	2·02	1·28	3·6
Infantile mortality (per 1000 Births) ...	146	160	154	125	185

LOCALITIES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORTED.

Locality.	Small Pox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox.	Total.
Bromley Road			1				1
Brewery Road			6	1			7
Bromley Street				2			2
Broome Street	1						1
Near Babes in Wood ...			1				1
Clutton Street		3					3
Chidswell	1		4			1	6
Commonside	6	2	5	1	2		16
Hollinroyd Wood .	10						10
High Street	4			1	1		6
Kirkgate		3					3
Leeds Road, Bottom of Cutting	5						5
Mill Lane		1		1			2
New Street						1	1
Owl Lane	1						1
Soothill Lane	4	1	1		1		7
Shaw Cross	3	2				8	13
Savile Street	1						1
Soothill Terrace	5						5
Willow Terrace		1	1		1		3
Total ...	41	13	19	6	5	10	94

During the year, 94 cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported, against 48, 26, 22, in the three preceding years. In 1898 the reported cases ran up to 96, when there was an epidemic of scarlet fever. In that year there were 66 scarlet fever ; this year we have 41 smallpox.

Small Pox,	41 cases	with	4 deaths.
Scarlet Fever,	19 cases	,,	1 death.
Measles, not reported			5 deaths.
Chicken Pox	10 cases	,,	no death.
Whooping Cough, not reported			2 deaths
Diphtheria	13 cases	,,	4 deaths.
Enteric	6 cases	,,	1 death.
Diarrhœa, not reported			7 deaths.

Small Pox was with us during a great part of the year.

The first was 3rd March	1
Next case, 24th July	1
August	1
September	14
October	15
November	5
December	4
	41

Vaccination and re-vaccination were extensively carried out during the last half of the year, and on even a larger scale than the previous year. The Sanitary Inspector has kindly furnished me with some particulars from his note book, which I append to this report. It is there seen that more females than males were attacked ; that while two of the vaccinated were affected 10 years and under, 10 of the unvaccinated fell victims; and that all the deaths were from the unvaccinated.

The complaint broke out at a milk farm in Common Side. On the 29th October the cows were removed to a fresh byre about a quarter of a mile away.

Without attaching any blame to any authority, I may say that while a few cases appeared in the centre of the district, and some in Soothill Lane adjoining Batley, a much larger number was reported on the borders of Dewsbury, viz., in Hollinroyd Wood, Leeds Road, Common Side, and Soothill Terrace.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent during most of the months of the year, and in most localities. In no case was the milk supply endangered by it.

Enteric Fever more prevalent than last year—6 cases against 2. Seven deaths from Diarrhœa, and all in children under one year. This increase in Enteric and Diarrhœa is no doubt due to the hot, dry summer.

Measles more plentiful than last year, and carried off 5 children. This, together with Scarlet Fever, interfered very much with the school attendance.

The work of disconnecting the sink pipes from the house drains has been going on. Existing privies have been re-constructed on model principles, and ashpits have been re-constructed and covered over during the year. Much is still required to be done in this direction, and I am assured 1905 will see most of the defects in the structure of the privies and ashpits remedied.

Factory and Workshop Act.

There are 23 Workshops in the district. These have been systematically visited during the year and found in a Sanitary condition. Ample provision is made in the way of conveniences, and for both sexes. The whitewashing has also been attended to.

There are no domestic workshops, and no home work is given out.

Fire escapes are being attended to and insisted on wherever necessary.

27 houses of the cottage class have been built during the year, provided with 17 privies and 5 water closets. The proportion of the latter to the former conveniences is too small. The extra cost to a house is so small that nothing but water closets should be allowed. The dry ash privies in many cases are a failure. You find dry ashes at one end and sludge all the rest of the way, especially at schools. In some cases the ashes place is too large. There is no overcrowding on the whole, but sufficient sleeping accommodation is not provided. There are no houses unfit for human habitation.

Back yards should be paved or ashphalted, but I note that flagging has been done along the side of the walls, which not only protects the foundations but gives the houses a smart and clean appearance.

The Joint Hospital for Fevers other than Small Pox is now ready for occupation, and will no doubt be opened soon for the reception of patients. The Joint Hospital Board has been taught a lesson in the case of Small Pox they will not soon forget, and will establish a permanent structure for that disease.

The water supply has been good and continuous, but cannot say abundant, as the rainfall was so short. There have been no cases of lead poisoning, nor arsenical poisoning.

Slaughter-houses have been fairly looked after, and I am glad to know that in future these houses will be registered.

Public Bakehouses hardly exist in the district, but in January one was started in the midst of insanitary surroundings without submitting a plan. When found out the occupier agreed to forego his outlay and leave before having notice served on him. In another case an oat-cake maker carried on a large business over a stable. This was also objected to and he left the district.

School attendance has been interfered with from the infectious diseases, principally Scarlet Fever, Measles and Small Pox ; but it has not been considered necessary to close any of the schools.

Phthisis death-rate has been about the average, but I have arranged with the Registrar to report to me any case of Phthisis at once, so that they may have the house and clothes disinfected.

To sum up, the birth-rate is lower than last year, and lower than the average for the last ten years. The death-rate is higher than last year, and above the average for the last ten years; but this latter is accounted for by the epidemic of smallpox and the unusual number of premature births (twice twins), and the number of debility from birth. I can offer no remedy but sanitation.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BEATTIE, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dewsbury,
31st March, 1905.

TABLE 1.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1895	6021	185	30·7			124	20·59
1896	6170	199	32·2	25	125	113	18·3
1897	6248	180	28·8	31	172	107	17·1
1898	6327	157	24·8	21	133	113	17·8
1899	6408	158	24·65	16	101	80	12·48
1900	6489	166	25·8	18	108	95	14·7
1901	6103	159	26	25	157	98	16
1902	6336	166	26·2	23	138	88	13·8
1903	6542	170	25·9	19	112	97	14·8
Averages for years 1894—1903.	6293	171	27·2	22·2	130	101·6	16·1
1904	6647	167	25·1	31	185	121	18·2

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 1897.

Total population at all ages, 6,104. Number of inhabited houses, 1329. Average number of persons per house, 4·385.

Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District, 8.

Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District—No. 121 ; *Rate, 18·2.

TABLE 2.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1895 ...	6021	185	124	
1896 ...	6170	199	113	25
1897 ...	6248	180	107	31
1898 ...	6327	157	113	21
1899 ...	6408	158	80	16
1900 ...	6489	166	95	18
1901 ...	6103	159	98	25
1902 ...	6336	166	88	23
1903 ...	6542	170	97	19
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903.	6293	171	101	22.2
1904 ...	6647	167	121	31

TABLE 3.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards
Small-pox	41	4	3	6	10	16	2
Cholera							
Diphtheria	13	1	4	7	1		
Membranous croup ...							
Erysipelas	5			1	1	2	1
Scarlet fever	19		7	12			
Typhus fever							
Enteric fever	6			3	2	1	
Relapsing fever							
Continued fever							
Puerperal fever							
Plague							
Chicken Pox	10	1	6	3			
Totals	94	6	20	32	14	19	3

Smallpox Cases only removed to Dewsbury Smallpox Hospital.

TABLE 4.

Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole district at subjoined ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox	4	2				2		
Measles	5	1	3		1			
Scarlet Fever	1		1					
Whooping-cough	2		2					
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	4		2	2				
Croup...								
Enteric Fever	1				1			
Epidemic Influenza	1				1			
Diarrhœa	7	6					1	
Enteritis	1	1						
Other Septic Diseases ...								
Phthisis	12			3	4	5		
Other Tubercular Diseases...	4		3	1				
Cancer, Malignant Disease...	3					2	1	
Bronchitis	14	2				3	9	
Pneumonia	4	3				1		
Pleurisy								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of Liver } ...	1					1		
Premature Births	7	7						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1					1		
Heart Diseases	9				1	8		
Accidents								
Suicides								
Debility from Birth	4	4						
Cerebral Hemorrhage ...	4						4	
Acute Rheumatism	4			2	2			
Convulsions	5	4					1	
Nephritis	4					2	2	
Inquests	8		1			5	2	
Eczema	1	1						
All other causes	10					5	5	
All causes	121	31	12	8	9	36	25	

Urban District of Soothill Upper.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC, 1904.

There have been 41 cases of Smallpox notified in the District and treated during the year. Of these 22 were Vaccinated and 19 Un-vaccinated. The patients were from 29 families, divided as follows :—

23	families	with	1 case	each	23
2	,,	,,	2 cases	,,	4
3	,,	,,	3 ,,	,,	9
1	family	,,	5 cases		5
					41

The cases have been treated at various places as under :—

Dewsbury Corporation Hospital ...	9
Batley Corporation Hospital	2
Thornhill U.D. Council Hospital ...	1
Dewsbury Joint Hospital Board Hospital	5
Home	24
	41

The following are the ages of the patients, divided as to sex, &c :—

VACCINATED.		UNVACCINATED.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
14 years	6 months	9 months*	2 weeks*
20 ,,	5 years	4 years	9 months
21 ,,	18 ,,	5 ,,	3 years
24 ,,	22 ,,	15 ,,	4 ,,
26 ,,	23 ,,	15 ,,	4 ,,
38 ,,	27 ,,	15 ,,	7 ,,
45 ,,	28 ,,	28 ,, *	10 ,,
54 ,,	29 ,,	28 ,,	20 ,,
74 ,,	29 ,,	29 ,, *	39 ,,
—	30 ,,	—	41 ,,
	32 ,,		
	40 ,,		
	71 ,,		

* Fatal cases (4).

JNO. BLACKBURN,
Shaw Cross,
Dewsbury.

TABLE 5.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF WORK executed and other matters carried out in the Sanitary Department, for the Year ended December 31st, 1904.

No. of water leakages and defective water pipes and fittings found and notices served.	Length of Sewers laid.	No. of private drains laid and connections made with sewers	No. of sink pipes altered and disconnected from house drains.	No. of nuisances abated by request only.	Notices served for abatement of Nuisances.	No. of Prosecutions.	Remarks whether carried out or not.	No. of new W.C.'s fixed.	No. of new Trough Closets fixed.	No. of new houses built during the year.	No. of new Privies built to new houses.	Additional privy accommodation to existing dwellings built.	No. of existing privies reconstructed on model principle.	No. of existing ashpits reconstructed and covered in.	No. of loads of ashes, &c., removed from ashpits throughout the district.	Average No. of times each ashpit emptied during the year.
15	Nil.	8	4	2	3	Nil.	3 in hand at close of year.	5	Nil.	27	17	Nil.	2	1	3084	7·43

Shaw Cross,
Dewsbury,
March 23rd, 1905.

JNO. BLACKBURN,
Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.